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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,007	11/28/2001	Satoru Maeda	450101-03636	2639

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NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

O STEEN, DAVID R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/996,007	Applicant(s) MAEDA ET AL.	
	Examiner David R. O'Steen	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-10 and 15-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-10 and 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5-10, and 15-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klosterman (US 6,072,983) in view of DeWeese (2005/0262542) and in further view of Bruck (US 7,143,428).

As regards Claims 7,9 and 10, Klosterman discloses an information processing apparatus and corresponding method and computer readable medium comprising: acquisition means for acquiring data of an electronic program guide (col. 3, lines 4-9); first retrieval means (fig. 1B.28) for retrieving a program aired within a preset time as from the current time (such as retrieving program data from a DBS system), based on the electronic program guide data acquired by said acquisition means (col. 4, lines 55-64); second retrieval means (fig. 1B.26 or fig. 1B.30) for retrieving the program aired at the current time (such as retrieving program data from cable or another source), from the electronic program guide data acquired by the acquisition means (cols.4 and 5, lines

Art Unit: 2623

66-67 and 1-4); selection means (such as using a remote to navigate an EPG, fig 1A.32) for selecting one of retrieval by said first retrieval means and retrieval by said second retrieval means (by using the remote to select a program through the program guide, the program coordinator chooses the retrieval means [IRD or cable box] from which to retrieve the program, col. 8, lines 5-13); and electronic program guide display controlling means for controlling the display of said electronic program guide (such as tuning to a cable channel or tuning to a satellite channel) based on retrieved results by said first retrieved results by said first retrieval means or retrieved results by said second retrieval means as selected by said selection means (by the user using the remote, col. 8, lines 3-11). Klosterman fails to disclose command means for commanding a display of a chat; and chat display controlling means for controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by said command means, the chat window display is not overlapped with the display of the electronic program guide. DeWeese discloses command means for commanding a display of a chat (such as a set-top based system for implementing a chat program, paragraph 60); and chat display controlling means for controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by said command means, the chat window display is not overlapped with the display of the electronic program guide (paragraph 66, fig. 9, and paragraph 93).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the chat features of DeWeese, an analogous art, to the program guide of Klosterman so that users can discuss common topics while using the television.

Klosterman and DeWeese do not disclose retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means and icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window. Bruck discloses retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means and icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window (fig. 5.104, and col. 7, lines 17-43).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the chat icon feature of Bruck, an analogous art, to the program guide of Klosterman and DeWeese because clickable icons are well known to users and provide an excellent way to launch a program such as "chat" program.

As regards Claim 8, Klosterman further discloses designating means (such as using the remote, 1A.32, to move between different channels, times, or shows, to select) for designating a program to be received (such as selecting, from a program guide, a channel to which to tune) based on said electronic program guide controlled as to display by said electronic program guide display controlling means (col. 8, lines 5-11).

Claims 15, 16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klosterman (US 5,940,073) in view of DeWeese (2005/0262542) and in further view of Bruck (US 7,143,428).

As regards Claims 15, 18, and 19. Klosterman discloses an information processing apparatus and corresponding method and computer readable medium comprising: web information acquisition means (such as through a web-browser box) for acquiring data of the web information (col. 4, lines 48-56); program information acquisition means for acquiring data of the program information being television broadcast (such as through a satellite or cable link) (col. 4, lines 48-56); information display controlling means for controlling simultaneous display of said web information and the program information based on the data of the web information acquired by said web information acquisition means (fig. 6d and col. 9, lines 54-67); and changing means for changing said program information to be acquired (col. 10, lines 9-14); in a state in which said web information and the program information are displayed simultaneously (fig. 6d and col. 9, lines 54-67). Klosterman fails to disclose command means for commanding a display of a chat; and chat display controlling means for controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by said command means, the chat window display is not overlapped with the display of the electronic program guide. DeWeese discloses command means for commanding a display of a chat (such as a set-top based system for implementing a chat program, paragraph 60); and chat display controlling means for controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by said command means, the

Art Unit: 2623

chat window display is not overlapped with the display of the electronic program guide (paragraph 66, fig. 9, and paragraph 93).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the chat features of DeWeese, an analogous art, to the program guide of Klosterman so that users can discuss common topics while using the television.

Klosterman and DeWeese do not disclose retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means and icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window. Bruck discloses retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means and icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window (fig. 5.104, and col. 7, lines 17-43).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the chat icon feature of Bruck, an analogous art, to the program guide of Klosterman and DeWeese because clickable icons are well known to users and provide an excellent way to launch a program such as "chat" program.

As regards Claim 16, Klosterman further discloses that changing means changes a broadcasting channel being received as said program information (col. 10, lines 9-14).

Claims 1,3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson (US 2005/0204387) in view of Nakazawa (US 5,299,010) and in further view of DeWeese (US 2005/0262542) and in further view of Bruck (US 7,143,428).

As regards Claims 1,3, 5, and 6, Knudson discloses an information processing apparatus comprising: acquisition means for acquiring data of an electronic program guide (such as through the internet, paragraph 111, lines 1-4); electronic program guide display controlling means (such as a device capable of displaying a and EPG, fig. 1.17) for controlling the display of said electronic program guide based on data of said electronic program guide acquired by said acquisition means (such as fig. 10); and selection means (such as a remote control 3.40) for selecting a preset program based on said electronic program guide controlled as to display by said electronic program guide display controlling means (paragraph 98, lines 1-14); but fails to disclose verifying means for verifying whether or not said program selected by said selecting means is a program of a channel that is receivable; and output information controlling means for controlling the information output for having the viewer recognize that, if the program selected by said selection means is verified as not being a program of a channel that is receivable, said program is not receivable. Nakazawa discloses verifying means for verifying whether or not said program selected by said selecting means is a program of a channel that is receivable; and output information controlling means for controlling the information output for having the viewer recognize that, if the program selected by said selection means is verified as not being a program of a channel that is receivable, said

program is not receivable (such as by labeling receivable channels one color, red, and not receivable channels another, white, col. 5, lines 16-52).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to add the verifying means for verifying whether or not said program selected by said selecting means is a program of a channel that is receivable, as in Nakazawa, an analogous art, to the interactive program guide system of Knudson, so as to make it easier on the user to identify which programs are not receivable in a broadcast consisting, possibly, of hundreds of channels.

Knudson and Nakazawa fail to disclose command means for commanding a display of a chat; and chat display controlling means for controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by said command means, the chat window display is not overlapped with the display of the electronic program guide. DeWeese discloses command means for commanding a display of a chat (such as a set-top based system for implementing a chat program, paragraph 60); and chat display controlling means for controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by said command means, the chat window display is not overlapped with the display of the electronic program guide (paragraph 66, fig. 9, and paragraph 93).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the chat features of DeWeese, an analogous art, to the program guide of Kundson and Nakazawa so that users can discuss common topics while using the television.

Klosterman and DeWeese do not disclose retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means and icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window. Bruck discloses retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means and icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window (fig. 5.104, and col. 7, lines 17-43).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the chat icon feature of Bruck, an analogous art, to the program guide of Klosterman and DeWeese because clickable icons are well known to users and provide an excellent way to launch a program such as "chat" program.

As regards Claim 3, Knudson further discloses that said output information controlling means displays a background picture if the program selected by said selection means is not receivable (fig. 27).

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klosterman (US 5,940,073) in view of DeWeese (US 2005/0262542) and in further view of Bruck (US 7,143,428) and in further view of Klosterman (US 6,072,983).

As regards Claim 17, Klosterman '073, DeWeese, and Bruck disclose the information processing apparatus of Claim 15, but fail to disclose that said changing means erases a broadcasting channel being received as said program information. Klosterman '983 does disclose that said changing means erases a broadcasting channel being received as said program information (col. 7, lines 25-34).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to add erasing a broadcasting channel being received as said program information, as in Klosterman '983, to the interactive program guide system of Klosterman '073 and DeWeese, so as to allow the user to remove clutter from the electronic program guide.

Conclusion


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David R. O'Steen whose telephone number is 571-272-7931. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DRO



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